

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8941

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USEC BRUSSELS 303

MTN GENEVA 802

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ASEAN/EC TRADE AND INVESTMENT MEETING, APRIL 6-8, 1977

REF: A. 76 MANILA 18944 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 88406

C. KUALA LUMPUR 2493 (NOTAL)

1. AS DECIDED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ASEAN/EC JOINT STUDY GROUP LAST DECEMBER IN MANILA (REF. A), THE EC CO-SPONSORED A MAJOR CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 6 TO 8 WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER 100 ASEAN INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR EC COUNTERPARTS TO DISCUSS PRIVATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS SENT THEIR ECONOMIC OR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO HEAD THEIR BUSINESS DELEGATIONS AS A SIGN THAT ASEAN WAS "WILLING TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO THE ENTREPRENEURIAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH EUROPE CAN PROVIDE." THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY SECRETARY OF FINANCE CESAR VIRATA AND BOI CHAIRMAN AND CON-

CURRENTLY SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY VICENTE T. PATERNO.

2. THE ASEAN DELEGATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY VICE - PRESIDENT SPENAL OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OTHER EUROPEAN COMMISSION OFFICIALS. THE GOP MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TRADE RECEIVED THE VARIOUS ASEAN ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. BUT OTHERWISE, THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS HOSTED AND FUNDED BY A PRIVATE EUROPEAN BANKING ASSOCIATION WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE EC, WAS ESSENTIALLY A BUSINESS CONFERENCE. MOST OF THE WORK WAS CARRIED ON IN COMMITTEES SUCH AS THOSE ON INDUSTRY, BANKING, TRADE, ETC.

3. SECRETARY PATERNO, IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION OVER THE MEETING AND SAID THAT IT WAS AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTION OF ASEAN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE EUROPEAN BANKERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS NOW KNOW WHAT ASEAN CAN OFFER, AND THE ASEAN BUSINESSMEN IN TURN KNOW WHOM TO TURN TO IN EUROPE.

4. ALFREDO VILLA-ABRILLE OF SAN MIGUEL, WHICH HAS ENTERED INTO A \$14.6 MILLION JOINT VENTURE WITH CREUSOT LOIRE ON MANUFACTURING MALLEABLE IRON PIPE FITTINGS IN THE PHILIPPINES, WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED OVER THE MEETING. HE TOLD EMBOFF THE MEETING "OPENED THE EYES OF THE EUROPEANS" TO INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ASEAN. HE WAS ALSO PROUD OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS, PARTICULARLY THE MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO GAVE AN EXCELLENT SPEECH, BUT ABOVE ALL HE WAS MOST PLEASED OVER THE COMPOSITION AND LEADERSHIP OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION. "WE HAD THE STRONGEST DELEGATION," VILLA-ABRILLE SAID, "AND PATERNO HAD AT HIS CALL A LEADING PHILIPPINE EXPERT IN ANY FIELD -- BANKING, FOOD, APPLICANCES, ETC."

5. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BRUSSELS MEETING, THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION REPAIRED TO FRANKFURT WHERE THEY MET WITH GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING INVESTMENT AND FINANCES WITH PATERNO AND VIRATA. VILLA-ABRILLE TOLD EMBOFF THIS BILATERAL AFFAIR WOED MUCH TO THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH GATHERED ALL THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADORS IN EUROPE AND SENT THEM TO BOTH THE BRUSSELS AND FRANKFURT MEETING.
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